Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1-84. (Cancelled)
- 85. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an autoimmune system disease or disorder comprising administering to an individual, a therapeutically an effective amount of an antagonistic antibody or portion thereof that specifically binds a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 134-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
- 87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a polyclonal antibody.
- 88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a Fab fragment.
- 89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is labeled.
- 90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme label;
 - (b) a radioisotope;
 - (c) a fluorescent label; and
 - (d) biotin.
- 91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90 wherein the label is a radioisotope selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) $^{125}I;$
 - (b) $^{121}I;$

- (c) $^{131}I;$
- (d) 112In; and
- (e) ^{99m}Tc.

91-117. (Cancelled)

- 118. (Currently Amended) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to an individual, a therapeutically an effective amount of an antagonistic antibody or portion thereof that specifically binds a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 134-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
- 120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a polyclonal antibody.
- 121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a Fab fragment.
- 122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is labeled.
- 123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 122 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme label;
 - (b) a radioisotope;
 - (c) a fluorescent label; and
 - (d) biotin.
- 124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123 wherein the label is a radioisotope selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) ^{125}I ;
 - (b) $^{121}I;$
 - (c) $^{131}I;$
 - (d) 112In; and

(e) ^{99m}Tc.

125-147. (Cancelled)

- 148. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting <u>B</u> lymphocyte proliferation, differentiation or survival comprising administering to an individual <u>or a cell culture</u> containing <u>B</u> lymphocytes, a therapeutically <u>an</u> effective amount of an antagonistic antibody or portion thereof that specifically binds a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of amino acid residues n to 285 of SEQ ID NO:2, where n is an integer in the range of 2-190;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 1 to m of SEQ ID NO:2, where m is an integer in the range of 274 to 284; and
- (c) the amino acid sequence of amino acid residues n to m of SEQ ID NO:2, where n is an integer in the range of 2-190 and m is an integer in the range of 274-284.
- 149. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the protein consists of amino acid sequence (a).
- 150. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the protein consists of amino acid sequence (b).
- 151. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the protein consists of amino acid sequence (c).
- 152. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
- 153. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a polyclonal antibody.
- 154. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a Fab fragment.

- 155. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 148 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is labeled.
- 156. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme label;
 - (b) a radioisotope;
 - (c) a fluorescent label; and
 - (d) biotin.
- 157. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 156 wherein the label is a radioisotope selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) $^{125}I;$
 - (b) $^{121}I;$
 - (c) $^{131}I;$
 - (d) 112 In; and
 - (e) ^{99m}Tc.
- 158. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting <u>B</u> lymphocyte proliferation, differentiation, or survival comprising administering to an individual <u>or a cell culture</u> <u>containing B lymphocytes</u>, <u>a therapeutically an</u> effective amount of an antagonistic antibody or portion thereof that specifically binds a protein consisting of an amino acid sequence of amino acid residues 134-285 of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 159. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 158 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
- 160. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 158 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a polyclonal antibody.
- 161. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 158 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a Fab fragment.
- 162. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 158 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is labeled.

- 163. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 162 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme label;
 - (b) a radioisotope;
 - (c) a fluorescent label; and
 - (d) biotin.
- 164. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 163 wherein the label is a radioisotope selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) $^{125}I;$
 - (b) $^{121}I;$
 - (c) $^{131}I;$
 - (d) 112 In; and
 - (e) 99m Tc.
- 165. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus.
- 166. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an autoimmune disease or disorder comprising administering to an individual, a therapeutically an effective amount of an antagonistic antibody or portion thereof that specifically binds to an isolated recombinant Neutrokine-α protein purified from a cell culture wherein the cells in said cell culture comprise a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-285 of SEQ ID NO:2 operably associated with a regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.
- 167. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
- 168. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a polyclonal antibody.
- 169. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a Fab fragment.
- 170. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is labeled.

- 171. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 170 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme label;
 - (b) a radioisotope;
 - (c) a fluorescent label; and
 - (d) biotin.
- 172. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 171 wherein the label is a radioisotope selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) ^{125}I ;
 - (b) $^{121}I;$
 - (c) ^{131}I ;
 - (d) 112In; and
 - (e) 99m Tc.
- 173. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 166 wherein the autoimmune disease or disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus.
- 174. (Currently Amended) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to an individual, a therapeutically an effective amount of an antagonistic antibody or portion thereof that specifically binds to an isolated recombinant Neutrokine-α protein purified from a cell culture wherein the cells in said cell culture comprise a polynucleotide encoding amino acids 1-285 of SEQ ID NO:2 operably associated with a regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.
- 175. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 174 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
- 176. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 174 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a polyclonal antibody.
- 177. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 174 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is a Fab fragment.
- 178. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 174 wherein the antibody or portion thereof is labeled.

- 179. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 178 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) an enzyme label;
 - (b) a radioisotope;
 - (c) a fluorescent label; and
 - (d) biotin.
- 180. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 179 wherein the label is a radioisotope selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) ^{125}I ;
 - (b) ^{121}I ;
 - (c) ^{131}I ;
 - (d) 112In; and
 - (e) ^{99m}Tc.

181-182. (Cancelled)

- 183. (New) The method of claim 148 which comprises administering to an individual an effective amount of said antagonistic antibody or portion thereof.
- 184. (New) The method of claim 148 which comprises administering to a cell culture containing B lymphocytes an effective amount of said antagonistic antibody or portion thereof.
- 185. (New) The method of claim 158 which comprises administering to an individual an effective amount of said antagonistic antibody or portion thereof.
- 186. (New) The method of claim 158 which comprises administering to a cell culture containing B lymphocytes an effective amount of said antagonistic antibody or portion thereof.